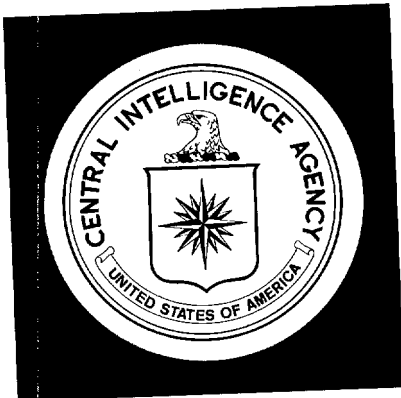


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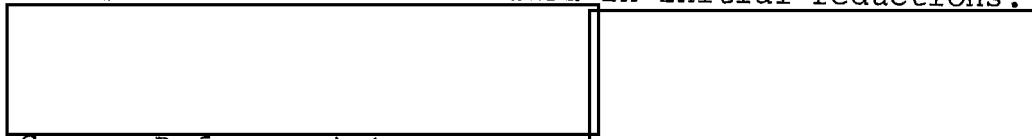
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*WEST GERMANY - MBFR: Disarmament experts and members of the Foreign Office hope to persuade Chancellor Brandt to accept the developing NATO consensus that initial force reductions be limited to US and Soviet forces.

The French arguments during the NATO ministerial meeting and subsequent Franco-German talks have apparently convinced German Foreign Office officials that Bonn should drop its insistence that indigenous forces be included in initial reductions.



German Defense Ministry experts still hold that German forces should be included in an integrated program for the reduction of both stationed and indigenous forces in the initial phase of reductions.

Increased French interest in MBFR has heightened German hopes that Paris eventually will decide to participate in the force reduction negotiations. German officials apparently believe that their views on other issues involved in MBFR would stand a better chance of being accepted if the French join the negotiations.



*Because of the shortage of time for preparation of this item, the analytic interpretation presented here has been produced by the Central Intelligence Agency without the participation of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State.

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